

Stewardship (Week 2) | 6.21.26

Key Outcomes

The sermon focused on **stewardship of God-given gifts**, using scripture and analogy to challenge the congregation to stop complaining about what they lack and faithfully use what they already possess. The central call was to get out of God's way and honor Him through disciplined, intentional stewardship across all areas of life.

Decisions Made

- Service theme confirmed as **Week 2 of Stewardship** series 1
 - Congregation directed to **focus on the Word**, not distractions, and to invite others to service 2
 - Collective **repentance prayer** led for complacency, entitlement, and misplaced priorities 3
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Core Teaching Points

- **Central question:** *"How will we use what has been gifted to us?"* — every person is gifted by God for the common good of the body 4
- **Alabaster box (Mark 14:3–8):** The woman chose to honor Jesus with a costly possession rather than profit from it — a model of stewarding gifts for worship, not personal gain 5
- **Moses' staff (Exodus 4:2):** God used what Moses already had; fixating on what we lack causes us to overlook what we do have 6
- **Exodus 4:24 — Zipporah's discernment:** Moses had to get his own house right before delivering God's message to Pharaoh; leaders must steward their personal obedience before directing others 7
- **Psalms 127:3–4:** Children are a **heritage and reward from God**, not a burden — parents are stewards of their children and accountable for what those children witness in them 8

- **Proverbs 31 applied to the Church:** The virtuous woman is an analogy for the **bride of Christ**; the congregation should ask, *"Am I a Proverbs 31 disciple?"* 9
 - **1 Corinthians 6:12–20:** *"Everything is permissible but not everything is beneficial"* — gifts must not master us; the body belongs to God and must be stewarded accordingly 10 11
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Key Warnings on Bad Stewardship

- Complaining, worry, anxiety, fear, and entitlement are all forms of **bad stewardship** 12
 - Using gifts for **selfish gain or manipulation** (described as "prostituting" gifts) makes one complicit with whatever masters them 13
 - Wanting more while neglecting what is already given (e.g., a dirty house, an unmaintained car) blocks God's ability to increase 14
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Reflection & Repentance Moment

- Congregation invited to personally identify areas of **bad stewardship** (time, gratitude, giftings, money, body) 15
 - Communal prayer of rededication led: *"Jesus, we're raggedy without you... be our Lord"* 16
 - Those rededicating or coming to faith for the first time encouraged to connect for **discipleship follow-up** 17
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Announcements

- **New Members Luncheon:** Next Sunday at 1PM — members must sign up via emailed link 17
 - **Youth Event (Saturday):** Jump/activity event for kids 18
 - **Giving:** Congregation encouraged to give via the church app or in person; church is **preparing for a building** 18
 - Check church website for additional announcements 18
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Action Items

- **Congregation:** Sign up for New Members Luncheon via emailed link before next Sunday 17
- **Parents:** Reflect on what children are witnessing at home; steward parenting intentionally 19
- **All members:** Practice gratitude as a discipline — steward time, body, gifts, and relationships as belonging to God, not self 20